



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

March 18, 2004

SEVEN ARRESTED IN 3,600 POUND MARIJUANA

BUST IN LAKE AND VOLUSIA COUNTIES

U.S. Attorney Paul I. Perez, Stephen Collins, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Orlando District Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and Steven J Trent, Special Agent in Charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), today announced the arrest of seven individuals charged in a complaint with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana. The arrests stem from the seizure of more than 3,660 pounds of marijuana on March 17, 2004. The defendants face a mandatory ten years' imprisonment up to life imprisonment. All seven are scheduled to make their first appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Karla R. Spaulding in Orlando Federal Court at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon.

According to court documents investigators learned that marijuana was hidden in furniture that came into the United States from Mexico through Laredo, Texas. The

marijuana was delivered by truck on March 15, 2004 to three storage units within U-Store-It, a storage rental business located at 1805 North Woodland Blvd., Deland, Florida.

On March 16, 2004 some of the furniture was removed by a U-Haul truck and then transported to 259 Reynolds Road, Deleon Springs, Florida. During the early morning hours of March 17, 2004, a search was done and marijuana was found inside the furniture that was delivered to that address. It was later learned that furniture from the U-Store-It unit, with marijuana hidden inside, was also taken to 31218 Loraine Street, Deland, Florida in Lake County.

This case was investigated by the DEA, ICE, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Volusia County Sheriff's Office and the Lake County Sheriff's Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Vincent Citro.

A complaint is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

Those arrested are:

	DOB
Benjamin Ray Todd	7/23/80
Maria Felix Paulino	3/1/68
Jose Cruz Paulino	5/3/68
Luis Humberto Arjon-Sandoval	3/17/71
Alfredo Dominguez-Avila	3/6/56
Francisco Javier Gonzalez	11/29/73
Omar Milan-Tena	10/17/79